The Hampden Hippocrat

A Bulletin for the Hampden District of the Massachusetts Medical Society

VOLUME XI FALL, 1955 No. 4

A TIP OF THE DERBY

I personally believe that the "Hippocrat", which is the official publication of the Hampden District Society, should be more fully utilized, that it should receive complete support from the Fellows; that it be encouraged to grow in stature and influence so as to serve the community at large on matters medical when the occasion demands.

I like to believe that the editorial policy of our journal will remain somewhat similar to that set forth by the Amherst Student in its issue of February 1, 1868 from which I quote:

"We intend to make this paper the representative of the **whole college** and not of any particular class or party. No other questions than those which look to the interests of all shall enter into our designs or in the least degree be tolerated in our deliberations. Independent of all, subservient to none, ready to commend what is right and rebuke what is wrong, ever anxious to promote the best interests of the community, we shall begrudge no labor, no effort to make this a faithful journal of the thoughts and actions of the students of Amherst College."

If we all subscribe to this code of procedure the Society will grow strong and prosper, united in common purpose and dedicated to the idea that the profession is composed of men of character and integrity, with a social conscience and steeped in the tradition of charity and service to mankind in all their difficulties.

We must all be aware of the fact that we are living in an ever changing world, where divisive forces are constantly at work and where there is a fierce struggle going on to control the minds of men. Honesty is being challenged by deceit and double talk. Ideals are being scorned. Expediency replaces principle. The good life is being called "old-fashioned". Freedom is actually fighting for its very existence. The field of medicine is not immune to these devastating forces and false philosophies, and if I be correct, then it is important that we doctors bestir ourselves and go forward with determination, with vision and vigor in order that confidence in integrity and the solicitude that we hold may be maintained and strengthened. No man whose heart is devoted to his profession can ever feel helpless. We should find inner peace when we work at whatever is before us, not primarily for the pay we get, not for applause or gratitude, but for the sheer joy of achievement, for the pride we have in what we do well.

A doctor's real reward essentially is not fame nor wealth, not medals nor honors but rather the respect of and the trust placed in him by the community which he serves. It was the philosopher Cervantes who said "A good name is better than riches". The formula for success in the practice of medicine is discovered by him who gives a little more, serves a little better and tries a little harder. That is the meaning we should all give to the M. D. that follows our name.

Joseph P. Derby, Pres., H. D. M. S.

Hampden Hippocrat

"Life is short and art is long, the occasion fleeting, experience fallacious and judgment difficult." —Hippocrates, 430 B.C.

This Issue 500 Copies

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'To Play Golf Ye Maun Hae a Heid!'

(—C. B. MacDonald)

Sometimes it takes a coronary occlusion to bring home the realization that physiological limits are very real. If the thrombosis is not too extensive, the warning it provides may serve to extend the victim's life for a number of years provided proper precautions are observed. The editors of the Hippocrat know that they may speak for the Hampden District Medical Society in adding their prayers for the recovery of President Eisenhower to the flood of petitions that have gone up to Heaven from all around the world. Our warmest good wishes go out to him and his First Lady in this trial of the spirit.

Many lessons may be drawn from contemplation of this untoward accident. Foremost is the splendid influence that one friendly, patient yet determined individual may bring to bear on a world beset by problems. His home environment must have been simple yet perfectly suited to the molding of Dwight Eisenhower's character,—mother's knee and father's woodshed standing handy, to say nothing of a house-full of lively brothers to teach him lessons of tolerance.

Secondly, it is heartening to see his fellow-citizens respond to such leadership regardless of politics when the fate of nations hangs in the balance. They rallied to support him in peace just as they did in war.

The recurrent vital question of how to lessen the burden of our presidents rises once more for solution. It should no longer be postponed. Routine duties should be delegated to others where possible, and official greeters nominated to relieve the chief. We still recall Mrs. Bess Truman's ordeal of hand-shaking in the Green Room when she received 1,200 visiting Pediatricians and their wives. In self defense she asked the Postmaster General's wife to divide shakes with her,—400 at a time being her limit.

The subject of golf would not be raised at this time were not so many physicians ruining so much excellent turf and their tempers by overindulgence in what should remain a game for recreation. (I speak for myself, John). One southpaw druggist comes to memory who used to come alive on the links in the late afternoon after standing on his feet since daybreak, pushing dogs that should be killing him up and down the hills. And I lost a splendid brother-in-law in his middle fifties when he rushed from a hearty lunch to a steaming hot golf course and dropped out with an infarct on the fourth hole.

I know Paul White says the game is not to blame, nor the elevation; that ex-

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ercise helps to put off attacks. But we softies who do not keep in training still continue to drop in our snow-shoveled tracks, P. D. W. notwithstanding. We who grew up with Paul professionally were pleased to have him called in on this important consultation. He too shares the world's esteem like his distinguished patient.

As for us, long life and more power to them both,—yes, and more rest!

S. Q. Lapius

MEDICAL READER

Editors and others of that ilk are well advised to hasten the use of the new Oxford Dictionary of Quotations, (Second edition, revised and reset with 1,300 more quotes!), when hard pressed for material. or just for unalloyed enlightenment. The publishers recommend the tome as unsurpassed for a bedside book, but it is a bit ponderous for less than average wrists —3 1/3 lbs.! Bernard Darwin in his introduction rhapsodises for ten full pages about the 40,000 odd clips and their quote-worthiness. The Greeks as usual have their words-for-it and are allotted a separate index.

A reviewer in the Wilmington Journal discovered that within the boards of this large cribbery are pent such unexpected bedfellows as Calvin Coolidge, George I, and Adolph Hitler. We also found the mystic William Blake who antedated King C. Gillette's blue blade and wrote this autobiographical bit at the dawn of the nineteenth century:

'My mother groaned, my father wept,
Into the dangerous world I lept,
Helpless, naked, piping loud,
Like a fiend hid in a cloud'.

(Infant Sorrow)

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THE WORLD AND ONE MAN

Having drawn attention to recent Eisenhower accomplishments, we would like in addition to pass on the first hand report of Eddy Gilmore written from London, (via the Transcript-Telegram of September 29th), that the leaders of the Kremlin are greatly perturbed by the President's illness. According to him, Messrs. Bulganin, Krushchev and Molotov were tremendously impressed by Mr. Eisenhower at Geneva. "He", they said, "is a sincere man who wants peace". His friendship like that of Franklin D. Roosevelt they felt could be trusted. It is becoming more evident, in spite of what skeptics say, that one man had indeed improved relations between East and West.

One definite instance of interest to physicians, published in the J.A.M.A. of September 3rd, was the announcement last July 8th by a Russian representative at Geneva that after a lapsation of six years, 'his government proposes to take an active part in the work of the World Health Organization, to take up membership in the International Bureau of Education, and to contribute two million rubles to the United Nations Children's Fund in the form of services and equipment for maternity and child care'.

But the shocking news of the President's illness has caused the Kremlin such deep concern that the leaders have decided to go slow once more in dealing with the West. They are reported to be hesitant in making any long-term foreign commitments until they know whether or not Dwight Eisenhower must relinquish leadership of the U. S. government. They are said to fear a repetition of the East-West situation that developed when Harry Truman succeeded Franklin D. Roosevelt under somewhat similar circumstances. The Kremlin is especially suspicious of Vice-President Richard Nixon according to the Gilmore report.

Is it not regrettable that the health of the World and the science of healing and of prevention of disease should be subordinated to political fears and suspicions? Science must eventually be internationalized again as it was in the time of B. Franklin and later, of the great Physiologist Ivan Pavlov. E.C.D. & B.

PHYSICAL FITNESS

President Elmer Hess and Dr. W. W. Bauer, director of the A.M.A. Bureau of Health Education were invited to attend President Eisenhower's physical fitness conference, Sept 27-28. Vice-President Nixon was assignd to direct the conference after the President received reports that American youth is becoming a "soft" specimen.

Representatives of many physical fitness groups, including the Boy and Girl Scouts, have been invited to the meeting. In all probability a presidential commission will be set up to study the problem, bring it to public attention, and encourage persons and organizations at the local level to deal with it. (What about fitter M.D'S.? Ed.) Ernest B. Howard, M. D.
Assistant Secretary, A.M.A.

' MONAURAL DELAY '

Hearing with both ears at the same time is less efficient than hearing the same sound with one ear and then the other, according to Drs. H. M. Moser and J. J. Dreher of the Speech and Hearing Clinic at the University of Ohio. They surmise that elimination of interference by the delay of six hundredths of a second permits the reception of 'two complete and distinct presentations of the signal . . .'
(Science News Letter, 1/24/55.

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BETTERING PUBLIC RELATIONS

Dear Hippocrat:

Fellows of the Hampden District might be interested in a recent analysis of the complaints investigated by the Committee on Ethics and Discipline of the Mass. Medical Society. We have no way of knowing whether this analysis is representative of the great mass of inarticulate criticism against the medical profession but it does reflect the complaints of those who were sufficiently irate to write us. This is what the Society is doing to answer current criticisms.

In the recent calendar year the committee investigated and rendered an opinion on 42 actual cases exclusive of numerous hypothetical questions. Nineteen dealt with complaints of patients that they had been overcharged and in 9 of these the committee agreed with the patient.

Sixteen of the 42 cases dealt with charges of unethical conduct which were substantiated in 6 instances. In 5 of these a physician was the plaintiff. Patient stealing was claimed in 2 cases but was not confirmed by the committee. In 2 cases the committee found the defendent guilty of charging a doctor's economic dependent for medical services. One physician was found guilty of unethical advertising in the lay press. The charges brought by laymen were chiefly concerned with various types of financial chicanery such as charging for services not actually rendered or making an unwarranted number of calls on Welfare Patients at the expense of the tax payer. Only 3 of these 11 complaints were sustained by the committee.

Seven of the 42 complaints charged faulty care of some sort but the committee found none of them justified even tho it could sometimes sympathize with the plaintiff in his disappointment at the clinical results.

Because there is current a belief that graduates of unapproved schools are responsible for most of the complaints which eventually reach the Committee

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(From Page 5)
on Ethics and Discipline, the 42 cases in the year under consideration were broken down according to the medical schools from which the defendant had graduated. The three class A schools in Massachusetts, all unapproved schools, and all other schools constituted the five categories analyzed. The percentage of the complaints against the graduates of each school was compared with the percentage of Fellows of the MMS which those schools constituted. Various tests of significance revealed that no particular category had enough more complaints than another to be statistically significant. None of the schools furnished a disproportionately high percentage of graduates found by the committee to be guilty of the charges in question.

The last seven months' docket of 45 cases contains 21 complaints of overcharging, practically the same ratio as in the foregoing analysis. Not all of those complaints were considered justified by the committee. Often the complaint about a fair bill arose from misunderstandings that could have been avoided by a frank discussion preliminary to elective procedures or by a greater effort on the part of the physician to clarify the components of some bills. Not only would such procedures prevent much of the animosity displayed by patients who are acting in good faith; but they would also help to spike the guns of the chiselers.

These are some of the factors which we suspect are making for bad Public Relations; and altho good Public Relations means more than just avoiding mistakes, even this negative approach may prove fruitful. Sincerely yours, Allen S. Johnson (for the Committee on Ethics and Discipline, M.M.S.)

MEDICAL FORUMS

Something very unusual and even exciting is scheduled for November 22, 1955. On that evening a series of Medical Forums, free and open to the public, is to be launched in the auditorium of the Technical High School in Springfield.

This series is being co-sponsored by the Hampden District Medical Society, the Springfield Academy of Medicine and the Springfield Newspapers. It will run for four consecutive Tuesdays, and the subjects to be considered are those dealing with cancer, cardiac disease, obesity and hypertension. The public will be invited to send in questions which will be answered in easy-to-understand language by a panel of local physicians, headed by a moderator. (A complete listing of the program and the Joint Committee on Medical Forums follows.)

Since 1952 Forums of this type have been conducted successfully in a number of communities throughout the United States. They are now looked upon as an excellent medium for the dissemination of authentic and ethical health information in the community. As additional benefits they serve to foster better relations with the public and the press. They are endorsed enthusiastically by the American Medical Association which has furnished the committee with a tremendous amount of invaluable guidance and assistance.

Health and medical progress are news, news in which the public is keenly interested. Hardly a day goes by when these are not featured prominently in our magazines and newspapers. Unfortunately, much of their material lacks authority and accuracy, and some of it suffers from sheer distortion and misrepresentation. As time goes on it is becoming increasingly

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apparent that the responsibility of keeping the public informed on matters of health rests primarily with the profesion. The forthcoming series of Medical Forums is just one more way of doing it.

Will these forums prove successful? Will they be able to compete with the "$64,000 Question", which also falls on Tuesday evenings? How many people will attend? What will their reaction be? These are questions difficult to answer at this time. The only thing that can be stated with any degree of certainty at the moment is that the response and co-operation of the District and Academy Membership has been most gratifying. Close to fifty doctors accepted cheerfully their assignment to serve either in committee or in panel. Gratifying also has been the splendid support of our co-sponsor, the Springfield Newspapers. Mr. Paul Craig, representing them has not only counselled us wisely, but has also assured us of adequate publicity and coverage so essential to the success of the Forums.

All of this augurs well. If the current forum series proves its worth, others will undoubtedly follow, perhaps next year or the year after. It is comforting, therefore, to know that our membership stands ever ready to "live up to our Code, ...uphold in the community correct views of the powers and limitations of the science and art of medicine." M. M.

MEDICAL FORUMS

Sponsored by

Hampden District Medical Society, Springfield Academy of Medicine, The Springfield Union, The Springfield Daily News, and the Springfield Sunday Republican.

Place: Auditorium, Technical High School, Springfield

Forum #1 CANCER Tuesday, November 22, 1955, 8 P. M.

Turner, John, Moderator, Spfld.
Baker, Joseph "
Beauchamp, Eugene "
Celce, Frederick Holyoke
Hopkins, Fred Spfld.
Palermo, Alphonse "
Post, Fred "

Forum #2 HEART DISEASE Tuesday, November 29, 1955, 8 P. M.

Barnes, Wayne, Moderator, Spfld.
Coen, William "
Brown, Howard "
Leonard, Field "
Menard, O. J. "
Naurison, J. Z. "

Forum #3 OVERWEIGHT & UNDERWEIGHT, Tuesday, December 6, 1955, 8 P. M.

Millman, Max, Moderator, Spfld.
Dubois, Eoline "
Izenstein, Louis "
Potsubay, Samuel Holyoke
Steele, George W. Spfld.
Whitney, Jerome Spfld.

Forum #4 BLOOD PRESSURE, Tuesday, December 13, 1955, 8 P. M.

(OVER)

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FORUMS (From Page 7)

Kennedy, Howard, Moderator, Spfld.
Cheney, Roger "
Hurley, Frank "
Klibanoff, Samuel "
Simpson, Howard "
Toombs, Herbert Westfield

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Illingworth, Myles
Mozden, Walter
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Pace, Omar

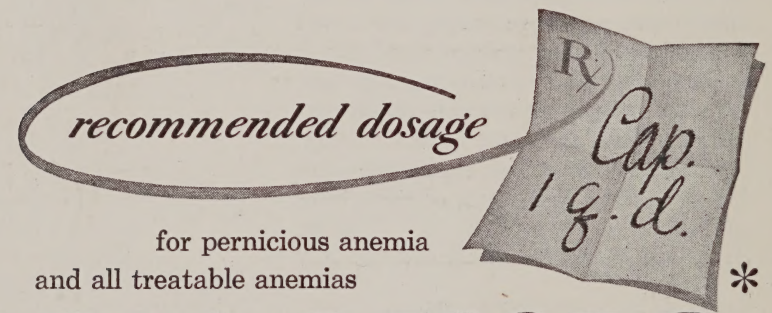
Representing The Springfield Union The Springfield Daily News and the Springfield Sunday Republican

Craig, Mr. Paul

HOT FLASH

Most men's beards are about three times as thick as the hair on their heads, —(Hippocrates **par excellence?**).

Sc. N. Letter.



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WHAT DO YOU KNOW

Concerning Social Security, Old Age and Survivor's Insurance and Permanent Disability Insurance? What is your opinion, as it may apply to you, and the profession, in general?

Your councillors intend to ask your opinion on this matter. A panel discussion by informed authorities will be provided to answer questions. At present, it would seem that there is no overwhelming majority for, or against this proposed legislation.

With an awakening evident among the younger members of the profession as to their civic responsibilties, the proposed meeting should be an exciting one. Don't miss this meeting.

The Council of the Massachusetts Medical Society voted approval of the executive committees recommendation that each district society place the matter of Social Security on its agenda where it would be discussed and a vote taken and a record of the vote forwarded to the Secretary of the State Society by December 1. Similar action was taken as to Old Age and Survivor's Insurance, as well as Permanent Disability Insurance.

RUSK SURVEY

Howard Rusk and associates are surveying the rehabilitation facilities of Greater Springfield at the request of the Community Chest.

This is a response to the suggestion of the Springfield Rehabilitation Centre, Inc. (Hampden District sponsored and endorsed) that better coordination would effect a great saving in Red Feather funds.

Your reactivated Rehabilitation Committee was invited by the Chest to meet Dr. Rusk at a special luncheon at which general problems were discussed.

A report of the survey is expected about January 1, 1956.

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A BREAK FOR THE DIETER

"Today's Health" is a magazine published by the American Medical Association primarily for the benefit of the laity. Not infrequently, however, it contains items meriting the attention of all, including physicians. An article of this caliber, written by its editor, Doctor W. W. Bauer, appears in the September issue. Its title is "An Editor's Challenge to the Restaurateur" and it deals with the plight of the special dieter who for one reason or another has to "eat out", or away from home.

One fourth of the American poulation is dieting constantly because of obesity and overweight. If we add to this the millions who have to watch their food intake because of diabetes, peptic ulcer, colitis, gout, cardiovascular disease, kidney trouble, undernutrition, etc., etc., the figure may become large enough to include perhaps one half of our entire adult population. Some of these people eat away from home once in a while; others do so all the time. The dieter's most common complaint is: "I eat out and you can't always get what you want". The ulcer sufferer who subsists on milk and crackers morning, noon and night, often does so because he can't obtain more diversified fare, and many a cardiac has gone into congestive failure because of the unavailability of a low-sodium diet in the restaurant.

Doctor Bauer challenges the restaurant owners to come to the aid of these "forgotten people". Specifically he suggests that every restaurant establish a special dietary department. He outlines in detail how this might be accomplished without extra cost, and without the services of a trained dietitian, especially if the restaurant industry as a whole got behind it.

Next, he suggests that "The cooperation of local medical societies might be enlisted in serious legitimate efforts of this type, because every doctor knows the difficulties of dieting while 'eating out' ". This is an excellent suggestion. Anything that promises to safeguard the life and health of our patients warrants our attention individually as well as collectively.

M. M.

HOPE FOR ALCOHOLICS

The Massachusetts General Court has appropriated funds for the creation of an Alcoholic Clinic at the Springfield Municipal Hospital.

Delay by the City government is the only obstacle to an early opening.

Policies and procedure will be made known at a later date.

The Clinic is to be under the supervision of the Springfield Rehabilitation Centre. This follows our society policy that medical matters should be under medical control.

Our Counselling Service should be of great assistance to this new formed clinic for alcoholics.

BROKEN REEDS

Whether you think or not makes very little difference in the amount of energy consumed because most of the 'juice' used is needed to keep the convolutions alerted and ready to go to work. If you go back to sleep, oxygen still is burned; but in coma or under the influence of sedatives, at a much slower rate. University of Pennsylvania investigators infer that you need not 'let your brains run out'. Science N. L. 8/6/55.

Truth serum is the bunk claims Dr. John M. McDonald in the Journal of Criminal Law . . . Scopolamine and barbiturates that are employed are not serums, and truth is not invariably attained by their use. The suspect might as well take a large shot of whiskey he suggests, — (Scotch preferred?).

General Robert has been immortalized by his painstaking efforts to bring order out of parliamentary debate by his well known 'Rules'. But our current handful of iconoclasts who serve as Councilors seem bent upon pushing him off his pedstal, judging by the chaotic October meeting when trifles consumed hours at the expense of important issues that lacked time for consideration. The raw recruits seemed to take especial delight in hampering the well-trained efforts of the Chair and his Right Bower. Adjournment finally came at 3 P. M. !?XX!!

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Achilles' Tool Too Little Used

The Achilles' heel of tuberculosis is its curability in its early stage. Delay in diagnosis inevitably sets off a chain reaction wherein one person with open tuberculosis infects one or more other persons, who, in turn, infect one or more other persons and so on. This chain reaction can be very easily interrupted by the following three basic principles: find the case early; cure it with chemotherapy and/or surgery; prevent it from becoming a disease spreader. The first principle, however, is the most important, and for its implementation we have available one of the most specific and reliable tools known to medicine, namely, the tuberculin test.

It is an incontrovertible fact that about six weeks after a human being is infected, this simple test becomes positive. A person not infected with the tubercle bacillus is not sensitive to tuberculin. A person, not infected, cannot be made sensitive to tuberculin just by its repeated use. When the test is positive, that person is harboring a tuberculous focus somewhere in the body. A weakly positive test does not disprove clinically active tuberculosis; neither does a strongly positive test prove the presence of clinically active disease. A single tuberculin test, when positive, has its limitations in that it only tells that an infection has taken place. It cannot tell where that infection is in the body; how bad it is; or where or when it was acquired. However, if the test is done routinely and repeatedly on all patients, a physician can easily determine when the infection took place and, perhaps, even where. This information is essential for the protection of the person tested as well as those who might be infected if the source is not controlled.

There are those who feel that recent converters should be treated with specific chemotherapy, if a primary complex is demonstrated by x-ray.

They grant that on the average the vast majority of recent converters will get well without chemotherapy or will never get sick. However, it is their impression that some will shortly come down with active disease and others will surely develop clinical disease in remote years. Moreover, they pose the question: "Just how minimal does pulmonary tuberculosis have to be before one would not treat it?"

The tuberculin test and the x-ray are the most potent weapons in our armamentarium for the control of tuberculosis. Widespread use of repeated tuberculin testing as well as periodic x-raying cannot be urged too strongly. The former is becoming a more important tool as time goes on. We must test and x-ray all contacts of newly diagnosed tuberculosis cases whether they be the home, the business office, or industry. All medical and hospital personnel must be tested and x-rayed periodically. Everyone associated in any way with our penal institutions, with our mental institutions, with the various institutions and organizations for the care of the aged and the homeless must be checked. All those associated in any way with the care of children, particularly school personnel, should also be periodically checked. A not unreasonable goal would be to secure the tuberculin testing and x-raying of all admissions to all general hospitals, regardless of diagnosis. Ordinary methods of case finding turn up too high a percentage (estimated up to 78%) of moderately or far advanced cases of tuberculosis. Therefore, it is up to us physicians to strive for **regularly repeated tuberculin testing and periodic x-raying** if tuberculosis is to be stopped before it goes to seed and the seeds are broadcast.

J. C. A.

HOT FLASH

WERE YOU AWARE

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The Betrayal of Dr. Still

Many strange things are happening to the medical profession in its fear of government controlled medicine, and one of the strangest is the recommendation brought before the delegates of the A.M.A. last June, that osteopathy be recognized as a legitimate method of medical practice! This was the sense of a committee appointed in 1952 to study the relation between osteopathy and medicine.

This committee frankly finds that the facilities in the osteopathic schools are not adequate, there are not enough instructors, clinical material or even money to train students properly in the care of the sick. And if that isn't enough to bring tears to your eyes, the committee finds also that the Father of Osteopathy has been given the complete brush off, for the teaching that all disease is due to abnormalities in or about the joints is no longer accepted or taught, having been completely disproved by the X ray. In fact there is hardly a recent book on osteopathy in the schools, and though a very good library is to be found in the schools, it consists largely of medical books and magazines.

Such being the case, the osteopaths who met with this committee, made this request to be transmitted to the A.M.A. that we supply them with clinical material, allow instructors from our medical schools to accept invitations to teach their students, and also allow them to participate in courses for graduate training given by our medical schools. This plea of the osteopaths is based on the argument that since they take care of upwards of a million people in this country, we should be willing to help in the matter of better education for their students.

In the past school year '54-'55 there was a total of 1867 students registered in the schools of osteopathy, of whom 70% had a degree equivalent to A.B.; 4% had advanced degrees and all had completed the educational requirements for admission to medical school. Some had not been accepted in a medical school, but practically all were in osteopathic schools because they preferred to be, presumably because the training was less arduous, less expensive and the emoluments equally great. At the moment the osteopath is discriminated against and justly so in his efforts to obtain a commission in the armed services, but he has a number of members in the U. S. Senate working for him and there is a bill before the Senate authorizing this. However, at last accounts this bill for Commissioning Osteopaths in the Military has been turned over to a committee for further study.

The report presented to the Committee on Medical Education and Hospitals, contains the assurance that there is no sign of cultism as osteopathy is practised today, and recommends that the A.M.A. extend the hand of brotherhood to the osteopaths; forget Dr. Still as they have forgotten him and help them to opportunities for better medical care.

The reply of the Committee on Medical Education was a weasel worded statement, to the effect that it was not completely satisfied as to osteopathy being free from the taint of cultism; but it approved the idea of members of the A.M.A. teaching in schools of osteopathy, provided it meets with the approval of the medical society. And the Committee further continues its appeasement by recommending the appointment of ANOTHER committee to confer with the Osteopathic Association regarding "common professional problems". (Your turn next Chiropractors?)

It is incredible that the A.M.A. delegates who heard this report didn't have enough backbone to state the case simply and dispose of it forever by the statement that if the osteopaths desire a medical education they have only to reorganize their plant into an ethical medical institution. Until they do there is no possible reason for any professional contact between doctors of medicine and followers of osteopathy. In fact how can they legally be licensed as osteopaths when osteopathy as a system of therapy is no longer taught. E.C.D.

MEDICINE AND THE PRESS

For some time, the relations between the area newspapers and physicians of the District have not been too good. The average doctor, fearful of being considered a publicity-seeker, has tended to refuse all comment on any matters in which reporters were interested.

The press, in turn, often printed articles critical of the medical profession, such as complaints by the public, (often unjustified) without bothering to ask for comment by the Society officers.

A mutual desire to improve matters has led to a series of meetings between the Society officers and the managing editors of the area newspapers, and as a result co-operation and understanding have reached a new high. One concrete example of this is the fact that the Union is co-sponsoring the Public Medical Forumns to be given by the Society this winter.

Also in all newsworthy subjects which the newspapers intend to print, the Public Relations Chairman of the District Society will be contacted by the papers for the official viewpoint of the Society. It is hoped that this new spirit of co-operation will flourish indeed in the years ahead. J.A.B.

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